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The sound was deafening, could this really be happening? It was the bottom of the ninth with 2 outs and bases loaded. Up to bat, Goliath, Carlos Reltran, the hard swinging, over, 300 batting average, New York Met. Pitching, the rookie, Adam Wainright. It was truly David versus Goliath.

No one could believe that St. Louis Cardinals had made it to the National League pennant game, much less the playoffs. The Cardinals had battled countless injuries and setbacks. They entered as the underdog and were able to scrap their way to the NL pennant game, but it was against the Mets. The hard throwing, powerful, fast, New York Mets. They weren't a team one could just play. If a team had a hint of sloppiness while playing the Mets, the game was over. The Cardinals were ready.

The game that night in 2006 was a Game for the ages. Dreams were taken away, like Endy Chavez robbing Scott Rolen's home run, and new courage was created, such as when Yadier Molina hit a two run shot to take the lead. Every event in that game, however, was summed up in this at bat.

At a time when a pitcher would rather let some other Pitcher pitch and lose the game, Adam, the rookie, forced Carlos, as calm and ready as a snake ready to strike. Adam pitched, it was high fast ball strike one. Sighs of relief and frustration were ringing throughout the stadium. The next pitch, love curve-ball, ball one, as was the next pitch. The count was 2-1, and Adam almost made a mistake that would've lost the game. He pitched another fastball and all you could hear was pow! The ball was crushed, but Carlos got anxious and swung to early, which pulled the ball foul. The next pitch, another ball. This was it. The crowd got on their feet, and the screaming was so loud it was like being sucked into an ocean of sound. Adam, however, stood strong and calm, ready to throw his stone. Everything was a blur as Adam pitched. It was the nastiest 12-6 curve I have ever seen, and it was strike three.

The crowd erupted as Yadier Molina ran up to hug Adam. The whole team ran out and picked up Adam like a wave of red. David had defeated Goliath, and it was that same David, and that same pitch that won the World Series in 2006 for the Cardinals.

Organization/Purpose: Score 4

- The plot creates a sense of unity, beginning with the last play of the game and using flashback to establish situation and problem.
- The story engages the reader by identifying well a critical situation and by developing setting and key characters (Mets' batter and Cardinals' rookie pitcher) very effectively.
- Consistent use of effective transition devices: "No one could believe the Cardinals had made it to the pennant game," "The game that night in 2006 was a game for the ages," "At a time when a pitcher" all move the reader smoothly from point to point.
- Effective use of opening, flashback, and closure

Evidence/Elaboration: Score 4

- The setting, events, characters are succinctly and effectively established and developed. The description of "the big game" at a "critical moment" is well-developed, and the two opposing contenders are clearly identified.
- The use of the David and Goliath allusion works effectively to establish characters and plot.
- Excellent use of figurative language and imagery: "sound was deafening," "calm and ready as a snake to strike," "like being sucked into an ocean of sound," "picked up Adam like a wave of red."
- The direct, informal style enhances the narrative.

Conventions: Score 2

- Correct, effective sentence structure which has variety, from simple, direct sentences to more complex, descriptive ones.
- Few errors in punctuation, grammar, spelling. The variety, severity, and density of the errors are few.